

Toquaht Nation People's Assembly

Saturday September 25th, 2021

Virtual Video Conference

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Chair: Anne Mack

People's Assembly convened 1:00 p.m.

Agenda adopted approved by consensus

Approved June 26, 2021 meetings minutes approved by consensus

Presenters: Anne Mack, Angela Polifroni, Kevin Mack, John Nelson, Robyn Rea, Rick Shafer, David Johnsen, Lisa Morgan, Kathy Waddell, Leah Mack

Attendees: Kelly Johnsen, Noreen Frank, Buck Goodman, Rick Ayre, Leonard Mack, Asma Antoine

Welcome by taayii ha?wii Anne Mack

- o Anne welcomed everyone and acknowledged the hard year we have had and to stay strong

First Door Prize winner (\$250 VISA Gift Card)

Noreen Frank

1) Introduction of Audit by chaa-maa-taa Kevin Macka)Finance –

- a) Audit overview by John Nelson, Accountant RHN
 - i) John described the reason and process for audits



- ii) On completion of the audit RHN concluded that Toquaht Nation's financial statements for 2020-2021 are accurate and Toquaht is doing well financially

2) Intro on Progress of the Strategic Plan and Department updates

Angela Polifroni

Vision

Toquaht envisions a healthy community where our masčim have the opportunity to meet their social, spiritual, and economic needs.

Mission

Toquaht supports our masčim to thrive by being innovative and providing high quality programs and services within a fair, transparent, accountable, and sustainable governance system

a) Capital Projects & Infrastructure

Rick Shafer

- i) Secret Beach Cookhouse
 - (1) Design work to be completed by end of September and construction expected to start before Christmas
- ii) Macoah Water Reservoir
 - (1) Construction is anticipated to start summer of 2022
- iii) Community Building at Macoah - ʔukwaaʔathiiic hišimiyiʔak
 - (1) Schedule remains to have building ready for opening late December
- iv) Secret Beach Off-site Sewer and Waterline shovel ready
 - (1) Construction expected to start early-November and be completed in spring of 2022
- v) Decisions & Tasks Remaining from June 26 Meeting
 - (1) Key decisions required to advance construction on Secret Beach development including:
 - (a) Location of new Government Building
 - (b) Whether to proceed with a Resort development
 - (c) Lot tenure for residential development (fee-simple v. long-term lease, or a combination of both)
 - (2) Develop Neighborhood Plan and other tools that outline form and character, bylaws, and fees and charges for services
 - (3) Develop a framework for level of service and operational standards for service provision to future residents of Secret Beach

b) Lands & Resources

David Johnsen

- i) Domestic Harvest (aka Food Fish)
 - (1) Herring roe on kelp was purchased and is in our freezers
 - (2) Chinook salmon were caught and is being canned at St. Jeans
 - (3) There will be a distribution of remaining frozen fish along with herring roe and canned salmon in October
 - (4) Please ensure the TN office has your current phone number and address.
- ii) A herd of Elk- ʔuunim -was translocated from Lake Cowichan area and transferred into Toquaht territory.

(1) Trail cameras were placed along the road out by Lucky Creek in the area the elk have been spotted to determine the number of elk and to help monitor the vehicle traffic in and out of the area

iii) Guardian Program-

(1) Two new positions will participate in lands and ocean patrols, data collection, surveys such as oyster, clam, deer, elk. Food fish delivery, GIS mapping and many other tasks.

iv) Restoration Project in the Toquaht Estuary

(1) A local organization, Central Westcoast Forest Society, participated in the project and helped create a channel by the river to the estuary that will provide extra habitat for salmon fry that come down the river to the ocean.

c) Community Services

Lisa Morgan & Kathy Waddell

i) Non-Insured Health Benefits update (policy & application)

(1) TNG has created new guidelines and an application for citizens to utilize our NIHB program

(2) Supports costs that improve health and mental well-being that are not covered by other agencies (e.g. FNHA, private health benefits)

ii) Patient Travel Top-up Policy

(1) TNG will be implementing a Patient Travel Top-up Policy on October 1, 2021 to provide TN citizens with additional funding for mileage and meals when traveling for medical purposes

iii) Post-secondary Support Program

(1) TNG has two intakes for applications to the PSSP – January 31 (for Fall) and September 1 (for Winter), Application packages are available on the Toquaht website.

iv) K-12 reminders – school supplies and recreation funding supports

v) Strategic plan 2021-2024 “Foster masčim and community well-being” progress report

(1) Community Engagement - Focus 2021: Elders, children and families, mental health, general well-being surveys and interviews

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z7R2D5F>

(2) To sign up for an in person or virtual session: **call 250-720-6640 or email kathywaddell71@gmail.com**

d) Administration & Governance

Angela Polifroni

i) Undergoing an analysis of our current administration and future needs to come up with a sound plan going forward

ii) Additional human resources are being brought onto the team to help

iii) Engagement, input from citizens will help expedite certain projects

Second Door Prize Winner (\$250 VISA Gift Card)

Buck Goodman

3) National Drinking Water Class Action Update

Leah Mack

- a) A class action was filed against Canada for failing to address prolonged drinking-water advisories on First Nations reserves across Canada whose communities were subject to drinking water advisories for at least one year from November 20, 1995 to June 2021
- b) The class action was certified, and other affected Nations were invited to join it including Toquaht Nation
- c) On July 30, 2021, the Government of Canada agreed to settle this action (instead of going to court)
- d) The terms of the settlement are still being negotiated and then sent to court for approval – the court will determine if it will approve the negotiated settlement agreement
- e) To be eligible, the member (or in our case, the Citizen) must have lived on-reserve during a water advisory that lasted for over a year, subject to some limitations
- f) As soon as the settlement has been reached, and can be shared, we will provide an update to Toquaht for all Citizens

Questions:

Q How were the dates determined?

A : it is based on Statutory Limitations from time of filing so it could not go back any further in time - Was noted that Macoah's boil water advisory was lifted July 28, 2014

4) Question Period

Q Will there be a basketball court at the *ṭukwaaʔath̓iic hišimiyiʔak* (Community Gathering Place)?

A There was no place in the budget at this time but it is in the plans for the future.

Q Will there be more opportunities/activities for youth & children?

A We are working on developing programs and support for activities in this area.

Q How will more development happen?

A We are working on updating our OCP in the next year or so.

Q Will anybody from the nation (with the proper skills) be employed to help with the water reservoir project?

A All major works are performed by contractors and we negotiate a clause for priority hiring of qualified Toquaht citizens and/or Macoah residents.

Q Will there be more job opportunities?

A Yes, that is our aim. We have been and are still laying the foundation to expand our administration, public works, corporations etc.

Draw for Grand Prize (\$500 VISA Gift Card)

Kelly Johnsen

The next People's Assembly was voted on and it is Saturday, December 4th, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by K. Johnsen

Law Clerk *Kirsten Johnsen*

Date 2025-03-27